

## Abstract

A nonwoven fabric having a mean value of the breaking lengths at elongation of 5 % in lengthwise direction and crosswise direction of 4.0 km or more and an air permeability of 0.2-10.0 cc/cm<sup>2</sup>·s and a support member made of said nonwoven fabric for a semipermeable membrane are provided. Said nonwoven fabric can preferably be prepared by making a web from the material comprising the fibers mainly composed of polyester fiber and a heat weldable binder fiber and subjecting the web to a heat treatment under pressure, said polyester fiber having a double refraction ( $\Delta n$ ) of 0.170 or more and a heat shrinkage stress (200°C) of 0.10-0.60 g/d.